

Gender Affirmation

WE ARE COMMITTED to the principles of health equity by recognizing diversity within our organization and in our products and services, including supporting gender affirmation health care for our transgender and gender-diverse members.

In British Columbia and the Yukon, we are fortunate in that our public health systems provide significant coverage options for drugs and procedures. To help navigate these resources, we've provided information and links below.

However, Pacific Blue Cross believes that we can still play a role in this space. We're in the process of reviewing our product and service offering to determine where and how we can augment this support. We value any and all feedback from our plan sponsors, advisors, and members in this effort.

PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT



[Trans Care BC](#) provides information on trans health and wellness as well as help with accessing care.



[BC Children's Hospital](#) offers resources for gender-questioning and transgender children and youth and their families.

DRUG COVERAGE

Most drugs required for gender affirmation are covered by BC PharmaCare. **It's important that impacted members have their Fair PharmaCare registration in place.**

Pacific Blue Cross has no additional rules or restrictions on coverage for hormone therapy; coverage would follow the benefit plan design and the classification of drug being used.

Regular benefit under BC Fair PharmaCare

- Oral estradiol
- Medroxyprogesterone
- Progesterone
- Spironolactone

Requires PharmaCare Special Authorization

- Testosterone (injectable or patches)
- Estradiol (patches or gel)
- Leuprolide (injectable)
- Cyproterone
- Finasteride

Covered by Pacific Blue Cross (open and managed formularies)

- Estrogen (compounded cream or gel)
- Testosterone (compounded cream or gel)

SURGERIES AND PROCEDURES

The [Trans Care BC website](#) provides details about gender-affirming surgeries, how to get surgery, and what's covered through BC Medical Services Plan.

✓ COVERED procedures*

- Breast construction (breast augmentation): Only publicly funded in certain circumstances. Request for public funding must be submitted by a plastic surgeon
- Chest construction
- Orchiectomy
- Hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
- Vaginoplasty
- Clitoral release
- Metoidioplasty
- Phalloplasty

✗ NOT COVERED procedures*

- Facial procedures (such as reduction of the Adam's apple, nose feminization, facial bone reduction, face lifts, rejuvenation of the eyelid)
- Pectoral implants
- Hair reconstruction or restoration
- Liposuction or lipofilling
- Vocal feminization surgery or voice surgery

*Go to the [Trans Care BC website](#) for a complete list.